

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 1-4 are pending.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Steele.

The rejection is respectfully traversed. With respect to claim 1, the claim has been amended to recite “providing access to at least the file and the configuration setting in a virtual environment” and that “the vulnerability is eliminated from the image by manipulation of data comprising the image itself, as opposed to by eliminating the vulnerability in a source system with which the image is associated and then creating from the source system a replacement image that does not have the vulnerability.” Support for the amendments is found, without limitation, on page 8, line 22 – page 9, line 5; and page 10, line 20 – page 11, line 22. Steele does not teach using a virtual environment to provide access to a file and a configuration setting comprising image, as recited in claim 1. In addition, Steele teaches replacing a master image determined to have a vulnerability with a new image taken of an “MDC” once applicable patches have been installed. Replacing an image with a new image, as taught by Steele, is not the same as manipulating data comprising an image to eliminate the vulnerability in the image itself, as recited in claim 1. The approach recited in claim 1 would enable an image to be repaired prior to any production system being made vulnerable by using the image to configure or restore the system, see Application at page 9, lines 18-22, whereas in the approach taught by Steele a vulnerability must be found and corrected in a production system before the “master image” can be replaced by an image of the system/component in which the application patch has been installed. Therefore, claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

The foregoing amendments are not to be taken as an admission of unpatentability of any of the claims prior to the amendments.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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William J. James
Registration No. 40,661
V 408-973-2592
F 408-973-2595

VAN PELT, YI & JAMES LLP
10050 N. Foothill Blvd., Suite 200
Cupertino, CA 95014